

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00366 251148Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6829
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0366

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BOTHA'S REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT

1. IN A REPLY TO OPPOSITION MOTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE A FRANK AND HONEST ACCOUNT OF THE STUMBLING BLOCKS STILL PREVENTING SOUTH WEST AFRICA FROM ACHIEVING RECOGNIZED INDEPENDENCE, FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SAID "I TELL YOU AS I AM STANDING HERE TODAY, IT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN--INDEED IT LOOKS TO BE UNLIKELY-- THAT AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION WILL BE REACHED...I SAY IT NOW HERE IN ALL HONESTY. THEY SAY I MUST TELL IT TO THEM. NOW, THAT IS NOW THE ANSWER." ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS, BOTHA ADDED "I WANT TO SAY HERE TODAY THAT WE MAY GET POSSIBLE SANCTIONS...THAT PRESSURE ON US WILL INCREASE AND AN ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE MAY COME IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ...IF IT MUST THEN HAPPEN THAT THE NEWS GETS WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER, THEN I SAY THAT IT WILL GET BETTER AFTER IT HAS GOT WORSE."
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2. BOTHA REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD STILL "LEAN OVER BACKWARDS" TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT IN SWA/NAMIBIA. "BUT," HE SAID, "WE CANNOT ALLOW THE TERRITORY TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF A MARXIST TYRANNY." BOTHA REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY HAD ASKED SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS TO REMAIN THERE,

"BUT SOUTH AFRICA WAS BEING ASKED TO REDUCE ITS TROOPS TO THE LEVEL WHICH MILITARY EXPERTS SAY WAS LOWER THAN THAT NEEDED TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE." BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN BY THE OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JAPPIE BASSON, WHO INTRODUCED THE MOTION, INTO A DEBATE ON SWA/NAMIBIA ON THE GROUNDS THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY. EARLIER, DURING THE QUESTION TIME, BOTHA ALSO SAID HE WOULD NOT TABLE A WHITE PAPER ON SWA AT THIS STAGE.

3. BOTHA, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT AT SOME LENGTH. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD AGREED TO ELECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE IN SWA/NAMIBIA AND THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF COLOR. BUT IN THE INNER CIRCLES OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HE REPORTEDLY SAID, THE THINKING WAS "MORE OR LESS THAT THERE ACTUALLY WAS NO PLACE FOR A WHITE GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA. THEY ARE, THEREFORE, AFRAID TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY FORM OF WHITE GOVERNMENT. AMERICA DOES NOT SEE IT IN ITS LONG-TERM INTEREST TO HAVE ANY FORM OF COOPERATION WITH ANY GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA THAT HAS A WHITE SKIN."

4. IN INTRODUCING THE OPPOSITION MOTION, CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT "TO END POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES WHICH PLAYED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE HANDS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ENEMIES," JAPPIE BASSON SAID THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SWAPO AND ITS ARMY WOULD NOT RETURN TO PARTICIPATE IN FREE ELECTIONS AND A PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE. BASSON SAID "SOME PEOPLE HERE SEEM TO HAVE THE MISTAKEN NOTION THAT THE WESTERN FIVE ARE IN CAHOOTS WITH SWAPO. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. THE UNFORTUNATE PART IS THAT BECAUSE OF OUR PAST HISTORY IN RESPECT TO SWA, EVERYBODY IS ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF OUR REAL INTENTIONS AND BONA FIDES."

5. BASSON REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED WITH THE FOLLOWING REMARKS: "I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IF WE CAN PROVE OUR BONA FIDES BY SUPPORTING PROPOSALS THAT WOULD INSURE FREE, REAL ELECTIONS TO THE SATISFACTION OF THOSE INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND HAVE THESE ELECTIONS PROPERLY SUPERVISED BY INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND IF WE WOULD ADEQUATELY RECOGNIZE THE CONCERN WHICH THE WESTERN POWERS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS IN THE MATTER, THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE A SMOOTH ONE AND WESTERN RECOGNITION, WESTERN AID AND WESTERN SUPPORT WOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE TO THE EMERGING INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA. AS FAR AS WE IN THE REPUBLIC ARE CONCERNED,

IT WOULD BE THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION WE COULD MAKE TO
OUR OWN FUTURE SAFETY, AND TO AT LEAST THE PROSPECT
OF A MORE POSITIVE PLACE FOR OUR COUNTRY IN AFRICA AND
IN THE WESTERN COMMUNITY. AND I CAN ONLY ADD THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE OUR SUPPORT (THE PFP) IN EVERY
POSITIVE ACTION IT TAKES TO OVERCOME THE PREVAILING
DIFFICULTIES."
BOWDLER

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